

Serial No. 09/517,113

Attorney Docket No. PT03216U

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 12 and 15 through 18 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 8, 15 and 17 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and, thus, claims 1, 4 through 7, 9 through 12, 16 and 18 remain. In addition, claims 1, 4, 6, 9 through 11, 16 and 18 are hereby amended.

Claims 3, 6, 9, 15, 16 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant hereby amends the claims to include the limitations of the allowable claims in all remaining claims. In particular, claim 1 is hereby amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, claim 6 is hereby rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1, and claim 9 is hereby rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 1 and 8. Also, claim 10 is hereby amended to include the limitations of claim 6. Further, claim 11 is hereby amended to include the limitations of claim 15, claim 16 is hereby rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 11, and claim 18 is hereby rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 11 and 17. The remaining claims, namely claims 4, 5, 7 and 12, depend from and include the limitations of amended claim 1 or amended claim 11. All claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance. In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4 through 7, 9 through 12, 16 and 18 are respectfully requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope

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of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mittel, James Gregory

Hisashi D. Watanabe 10/21/03
Date

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